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INFO RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0199  
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RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 6836  
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SUBJECT: UN A/SYG KANE PROPOSES HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS TO  
GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA

Classified By: Ambassador Robert O. Blake, Jr. for reasons  
1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs Angela Kane briefed on February 9 Co-Chair Ambassadors regarding her current visit to Sri Lanka. She has met with Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister, Human Rights Minister, political party leaders and other senior government officials to gain a better understanding of the situation in Sri Lanka.

She told the Co-Chairs that in all of her meetings she has been pressing the Government of Sri Lanka to agree to open a UN Human Rights Office that would have both training and monitoring components. (NOTE: The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights already has one officer stationed in Sri Lanka, Rory Mungoven, but he is seconded to a separate UN office here.)

¶2. (C) Kane said the Government of Sri Lanka has expressed interest in receiving human rights training from the UN, but is less enthusiastic about the deployment of international human rights monitors. Nonetheless, the GSL has agreed to carry forward a dialogue on the possible opening of an office in Sri Lanka. Mungoven explained to the Co-Chairs and to Sri Lankan interlocutors that there are many models for human rights offices around the world. In some cases, such as Nepal, the office had a quite intrusive role while in cases such as Uganda the offices worked closely with the host government. All offices are opened only after negotiation and agreement by the host government.

¶3. (C) Kane also briefed the Co-Chairs that UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour is considering a visit to Sri Lanka. Ambassador suggested that Kane brief Arbour that it would be best to delay her visit three to four months so that it does not undercut the work of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights that is scheduled to

begin its work the week of February 12 with the help of a high-level international group of eminent persons as observers. Kane and other Co-Chairs agreed it would be best to defer an Arbour visit for the time being.

BLAKE